

**Item 11 - Question Time**

Response to Mrs M Davidson

The meeting with the Secretary of State for Scotland was arranged specifically to discuss the provision of Emergency Towing Vessels and housing debt was not discussed. The Council has committed to pressing the UK Government to write off the Council's housing debt and it is a formal Programme Commitment. The issue has been the subject of ongoing discussions over the past three years by the Leader and Depute Leader and I continue to raise this issue in the public domain, which is a matter of public record. In addition, The Depute Leader has raised the issue of Housing Debt in the course of discussions he has had with both Chief Secretary to the Treasury and John Thurso MP over the past 6 months.